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OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON AN
AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT

DRAFT REPORT OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON AN AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT*

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II. POLICY FRAMEWORK, INCLUDING MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

47. An encouraging development in recent years has been the almost universal pursuit of increased economic openness and integration. This has contributed to a growing economic and social interdependence among countries. It is a common responsibility and in the common interest to ensure that these trends continue and also to ensure that all countries benefit from them. The last point is fundamental: the benefits attributable to these various changes have been widespread, but they have been neither universal nor achieved without costs. A primary objective of the implementation of this Agenda should be to contribute in such a way that the benefits stemming from future growth and development are distributed equitably among all countries and peoples.

48. Achieving and maintaining an international environment favourable to all countries is in the interest of all countries. Global economic, environmental and social issues can be approached effectively only through a constructive dialogue and genuine partnership among all countries. This requires a recognition not only of the mutuality of interests and benefits but also of common, though differentiated, responsibilities. This mutual understanding has permeated the ongoing sequence of United Nations world conferences and summits.

49. However, some of the commitments and agreements for development, including those referring to international development cooperation, resulting from these conferences and summits, as well as from previous international undertakings, remain to be fulfilled. These commitments, as well as the new and additional priority actions identified here, should be implemented in the spirit of solidarity and partnership. In this context, efforts should be made to mobilize public support for development cooperation, inter alia, through a strategy based on partnership between developed and developing countries, which incorporates, as appropriate, mutually agreed goals for development.

A. Economic development

1. Macroeconomic policies geared towards sustained economic growth and sustainable development

50. National developmental policies should be formulated in conformity with national needs, conditions and development priorities and should take into account the lessons learned from decades of development experience. Among the latter, the dynamic role of the private sector and the contribution of human resource development in creating wealth figure prominently. The challenge for public authorities is, inter alia, to develop and implement policies that are conducive to prosperity, eradicate poverty and conserve the environment.

51. To this end, Governments should encourage a supportive environment for the private sector, including active competition policies, the application of the rule of law, an open framework for trade and investment and sound fiscal and monetary policies. In the area of finance, policies need both to promote domestic savings and to attract external resources for productive investment. For both purposes, it is necessary to improve the efficiency of domestic financial markets. Addressing the needs of people living in poverty, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of society and the creation of more and better jobs requires attention to be given to conducive macroeconomic policies and to such issues as human resources development, gender equality, public participation and social integration. Social and environmental factors should

be considered as important elements to be taken into account by all countries in the formulation and implementation of macroeconomic policies. Particular attention should be paid to the effect of structural adjustment programmes on people living in poverty and on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of society.

52. Increased economic integration and interdependence places greater responsibilities than before on all countries, but particularly the developed countries, to contribute to ensuring that their domestic policies are favourable to economic growth and development in the rest of the world. National and international actions are closely interrelated and should be seen as mutually reinforcing components of the overall goal of achieving development. In order to foster a supportive international environment for development, countries should pursue economic stability, full employment, a low rate of inflation, sustainable external and internal balances, including the avoidance of excessive budget deficits, low long-term real interest rates and a measure of exchange rate stability. They should also ensure open financial and commercial markets and, where appropriate, provide concessional aid flows.

53. International cooperation in the formulation and implementation of macroeconomic policies should be reinforced with a view to promoting greater coherence and consistency of domestic policies and thereby enhancing their effectiveness. Measures should also be taken to broaden the cooperation among monetary authorities in order to maintain a sound international financial system. This enhanced cooperation should take full account of the interests and concerns of all countries. Multilateral surveillance should correspondingly address the policies and measures of all countries.

2. International trade and commodities

54. The growing, though far from complete, integration of all countries in world trade and investment represents an historic structural change in international economic relations. In recent years, developing countries' trade has increased, largely as a result of their liberalization policies concerning trade and investment. The expansion of developing countries' markets appears to be creating a virtuous circle in which mutually beneficial liberalization of trade and investment can become major means for generating the resources necessary for development.

55. The liberalization of trade regimes and the promotion of an open and secure multilateral trading system are central requirements for the promotion of economic development. All Governments should commit themselves to the liberalization of trade and investment policies and should foster international cooperation towards this goal. All countries have a shared interest in an open, ruled-based equitable, non-discriminatory transparent and predictable multilateral trading system. While many provisions in this area have been identified by the General Assembly, over the last five years, the agreements as represented by the World Trade Organization (WTO) are particularly important. In this regard, the WTO dispute settlements mechanism is a key element for the credibility of the multilateral trade system. The Commitments agreed in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round should be implemented fully. Unilateral actions of a protectionist nature, inconsistent with multilateral trade agreements, should be avoided and prevented. Appropriate monitoring measures should be established to ensure that, in the implementation of the Uruguay Round, the rights, interests and concerns of all countries are protected, recognized and redressed.

56. There is a need to promote greater integration in the world economy of those countries which have not yet benefited from the overall increase in trade and investment flows, in particular African countries and the least developed countries. Special attention should be given to the full implementation of the specific provisions for the least developed countries, including the provisions emanating from the Marrakesh agreements, and to the needs of the net food-importing developing countries, so that all countries benefit fully from the results of the Uruguay Round. These measures will also require domestic efforts to promote greater diversification of these countries' trade and to increase the competitiveness of their trading sectors.

57. Efforts to make trade and environment policies mutually supportive in favour of sustainable development should continue. Trade liberalization measures should be complemented by sound environmental policies, but measures adopted for environmental purposes should not become a means of arbitrary and unjustifiable trade discrimination or a disguised form of protectionism. In the same vein, social concerns should not be used for protectionist purposes.

58. Commodity exports continue to play a key role in the economies of many developing countries, especially in terms of their export earnings, the livelihoods of their people, and the dependence of general economic vitality on these exports. This makes the continuing deterioration in their terms of trade of special concern, even if there is some recent evidence of improvement in the prices of some primary commodities. Increased participation of developing countries in the processing, marketing and distribution of their commodities, if accompanied by improved market access, provides an alternative means for ensuring greater value added, as well as predictability and increased export earnings, from commodity production. This diversification will require such countries to continue their macroeconomic, trade and investment policy reforms.

59. It will also require a strong commitment by the international community to support such policy reforms. The international community should endeavour to improve the functioning of commodity markets, with greater transparency and more stable and predictable conditions. There should be further evaluation of the usefulness of commodity agreements in this regard, taking into account the potential of new financial and trading instruments and techniques. Improved market access for primary commodities, especially in their processed forms, should be provided, particularly by developed countries. They should also respond favourably to requests for technical assistance aimed at enhancing the diversification of the export sector in those developing countries which are highly dependent on the export of a limited number of commodities. The strengthening of multilateral compensatory financing schemes is a further means of addressing the short-term difficulties that can arise as a result of heavy dependence on commodity exports.

60. UNCTAD must build upon its comparative advantage and offer support appropriate to the needs of developing countries to ensure that they participate in the world economy on a more equitable basis. The policy research and analytical work of UNCTAD must illuminate the changes in the global economy as they relate to trade, investment, technology, services and development. This work should be undertaken in cooperation with WTO and other relevant international institutions.

3. Issues of internal and external finance

(a) Mobilization of domestic resources for development

61. Both domestic and external resources are required for development. In most countries, domestic savings contribute by far the larger part of the resources utilized for investment and are mainly mobilized through national fiscal and monetary policies, including equitable taxation and fiscal incentives. Exploring new ways of generating new public and private financial resources, inter alia, through the appropriate reduction of excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures and the arms trade, and investments for arms production and acquisition, taking into consideration national security requirements, so as to allow possible allocation of additional funds for social and economic development will be undertaken.

62. The experiences of those developing countries which have achieved high rates of economic growth in recent years show that sustained economic growth is linked to an effective strategy for domestic resource mobilization. These economies have maintained significantly higher rates of national savings and investment than other developing countries. However, some developing countries have limited scope for increasing savings because of their low per capita income levels and because levels of consumption are already low and are difficult to restrain further; these countries will continue to need substantial external resources as an important complement to domestic efforts to stimulate their development.

(b) External resources

63. Total net resource flows to developing countries have expanded rapidly in the 1990s. However, the trend has not been universal, in terms of either the types of financing or the recipients. Within the total, official (public sector) flows have languished; all the growth has been accounted for by an increase in the private sector component. Secondly, while some low-income countries have been the recipients of the increased private sector capital flows, others have not benefited at all.

(c) External debt

64. There is an urgent need for effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, and to help them exit from the rescheduling process. The evolving debt strategy has contributed to the improvement in the debt situation of a number of developing countries. Debt-relief measures have been undertaken by creditor countries both within the framework of the Paris Club and through their cancellation and equivalent relief of bilateral official debt. Nevertheless, external debt and debt-servicing problems have persisted, particularly for the poorest and heavily indebted countries. Debt-service problems of middle-income countries should continue to be addressed effectively.

65. Those developing countries that have continued, at great cost to themselves, to meet their international debt and debt-service obligations in a timely fashion have done so despite serious external and domestic financial constraints.

(d) Official development assistance

66. Official development assistance (ODA) is a small proportion of a country's total resources for development, but is a significant source of external resources for many developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries. As such, it can play an important complementary and catalytic role in promoting economic growth. Despite its critical importance, the overall decline in ODA is a serious cause for concern.

(e) Role of multilateral financial institutions

67. The multilateral financial institutions have an important role to play in meeting the challenges and urgent needs of development and the commitments made in a series of recent international conferences. Renewed efforts should be made in order to provide them with resources commensurate with their role, while pursuing ongoing efforts to increase efficiency and effectiveness. In order that international financial facilities, particularly the International Development Association (IDA), have more positive effects on development, the commitments for their replenishment should be fully implemented in a timely manner, thereby contributing more effectively to development.

(f) United Nations financing for development

68. At present, the capacity of United Nations funds and programmes to respond to the needs of developing countries is being threatened by the persistent insufficiency of resources for the operational development activities of the United Nations, in particular the decline in contributions to core resources. At the same time, the present sequence of global conferences and other international meetings has resulted in a wide range of additional development demands being imposed on the United Nations. The efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and impact of the operational activities of the United Nations system must also be enhanced.

(g) Private investment flows

69. Private resource flows to developing countries, including foreign direct investment (FDI), have increased in recent years. Key determinants for attracting external private sector capital are, inter alia, a stable domestic political, legal and economic environment, based on the rule of law, sound economic policies and an openness to foreign investment. Other factors include the prospects for growth and a favourable external environment.

70. The growth in FDI in developing countries is of particular importance since, in addition to finance, the recipient economy usually benefits in terms of technology transfer and enhanced access to export markets. However, FDI in developing countries, as well as the recent parallel surge in international portfolio investment, has been concentrated in the more advanced economies, the larger economies and those with high rates of economic growth. This situation needs to be addressed. There is also a need to promote favourable conditions for achieving international stability in private capital flows and to prevent the destabilization arising from swift movements of private capital flows.

(h) Peace dividend

71. When the cold war ended, a peace dividend appeared at hand. The relaxation of international tensions was thought to offer opportunities for reducing military spending worldwide and for using the resources so released to enhance

spending on social and economic development for the benefit of all countries. There should be an appropriate reduction of excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures and the arms trade, and investments for arms production and acquisition, taking into consideration national security requirements, so as to allow possible allocation of additional funds for social and economic development. While the reduction in global political tensions has yielded many benefits, the impact on development has not materialized in the tangible form or to the extent that was foreseen.

4. Science and technology

72. The ability of countries to participate in, benefit from and contribute to the rapid advances in science and technology can significantly influence their development. Hence, international cooperation efforts should be intensified and strengthened towards the developing countries' endogenous capacity-building in science and technology, including their capacity to utilize scientific and technological developments from abroad and to adapt them to suit local conditions. There is a need to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, in particular to the developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries. In this regard, the international community is called upon to meet all the objectives as reaffirmed in chapter 34 of Agenda 21.

73. Promotion of science and technology for development calls for a clear definition of the respective roles in this area of the private sector, Governments and international organizations. The private sector plays a role in the productive application of science and technology and most commercially relevant technology is controlled by the private sector. Governments play a role in ensuring that there is a propitious environment for the development, access to, transfer, adaptation and application of environmentally sound technologies, and in providing appropriate regulatory frameworks and incentives for the development of scientific and technological capabilities. Promotion of science and technology for development also requires a labour force that has the professional and technical training necessary to utilize newly introduced technologies.

74. Developing countries should further advance their collective efforts in promoting technology research, training, development and dissemination, as well as facilitating the access and exchange through information and technology centres. This development calls for the continued and enhanced support from the international community through technical assistance and financing. The international community should also continue to promote the development of effective and mutually beneficial technological cooperation between countries with economies in transition and all other countries, including in the area of new and emerging technologies.

75. International cooperation can complement national science and technology policy measures and is necessary in areas where global interests are at stake. The world community has a common interest in the development and widespread dissemination of technology geared towards environmental protection and conservation and the rational use of energy and raw materials. Governments should implement the commitments they made in Agenda 21 on this subject.

5. South-South cooperation

76. South-South cooperation is an integral and dynamic part of international development cooperation. The end of the cold war, increasing globalization, liberalization, regional cooperation, and interdependence are all making such cooperation more imperative. The countries of the South exhibit common as well as varying development experiences and know-how which offer many opportunities at the bilateral, subregional, regional, interregional and international levels for greater cooperation between them. Grasping these opportunities will result in a stronger basis for their self-reliance and development as well as provide an important complement to international development cooperation.

77. Exploiting trade opportunities among countries of the South by undertaking trade promotion activities, devising payment arrangements and expanding availability of trade information is particularly important. At the same time, there are many other areas, such as communications, information, transportation, investments, science and technology, environment, food and agriculture, population, education, and human resource development, in which South-South cooperation can be fostered and promoted.

78. Technical cooperation, arrangements to improve market access, technical and financial assistance, sharing of knowledge and technology, and exchange of information are some of the many ways and actions by which developing countries that have been able to achieve social and economic progress can assist those that have been less successful. The concept of triangular cooperation, which involves, inter alia, technical, financial and other support by developed countries and international organizations for South-South cooperation, can also make a significant contribution to the promotion of cooperation among developing countries. All these collaborative efforts should be accorded high priority and increased support from the international community and assistance from all sources, including relevant multilateral institutions and non-State actors.

6. Regional economic cooperation

79. Regional economic integration and cooperation is increasingly recognized as a means towards expanding trade and investment opportunities, and for promoting economic growth and sustainable development and other forms of cooperation between countries of various regions. Regional arrangements can also contribute to growth of the world economy.

80. Regional economic integration and cooperation should be actively considered as a means of eliminating obstacles to trade and investment and of fostering economic cooperation within a region. However, there is the risk that regional organizations may turn inward and that the world will evolve into competing economic blocs. Therefore, reductions of barriers to trade and investment among members or participants in regional groupings should be consistent with internationally agreed rules, where applicable, and without detriment to other economies.

81. Regional economic groupings should be outward oriented and supportive of the multilateral trading system. This requires a strong commitment by the international community, in its pursuit of regional economic integration and cooperation, to open regionalism within the framework of an equitable, non-discriminatory and rule-based multilateral trading system.

82. Regional cooperation also provides a vehicle for addressing environmental and social issues of common concern. The development of common approaches to environmental problems of a transboundary nature is particularly pertinent. National efforts in combating poverty and unemployment and promoting social integration can also benefit from regional cooperation. Furthermore, possibilities could be explored to use regional forums as means of cooperation in supporting national action to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and democratic institutions.

83. Regional integration and cooperation should be complementary and contributory to national policies and to global multilateralism. In order to take advantage of regionalism, multilateral economic and trade institutions must have the capacity to accommodate regional arrangements in their structures. The challenge is to use both global and regional arrangements in a mutually supportive way.

7. Development in agriculture, industry and the services sectors

84. The agricultural, industrial and services sectors need to be developed in a balanced manner. While it is recognized that the private sector is the primary contributor to sectoral development, Governments have an important role to play in creating the enabling environment for sectoral development to flourish, particularly in the agricultural and services sectors. Besides promoting a dynamic and competitive domestic economy, based on comparative advantages, and providing physical and institutional infrastructures, domestic sectoral policies should also seek to integrate the protection and conservation of the environment and the achievement of social development objectives into sectoral development plans.

85. In implementing sectoral policies, particular attention should be given to the potential of such policies to generate employment and contribute towards the eradication of poverty. In this context, the important contribution of small and medium-sized enterprises should be recognized. It is also essential to facilitate women's equal access to resources, training, employment, market and trade and to strengthen their economic capacity and commercial networks, as well as their equal access to and equal opportunity to participate in scientific and technological areas.

86. The agricultural sector remains the main source of income for the majority of the population in developing countries. Its marginalization from the overall process of economic development should be avoided. Agricultural policies should particularly aim at increasing food production, improving access to food by low-income people and enhancing the income-generating potential of agriculture. Developing countries, with the support of the international community, should promote the development of small and medium-sized agro-industries and cooperatives and improve the processing, transportation, distribution and marketing of food and other agricultural products. Governments should enhance, at the national and local levels, rural women's income-generating potential by facilitating their equal access to and control over productive resources, land, credit, capital, property rights, development programmes and cooperative structures.

87. The industrial sector constitutes one of the key factors in sustained economic growth and in achieving social objectives. In order to promote industrial development, policies in this area should be geared towards ensuring the legal and institutional framework that fosters entrepreneurship and attracts

foreign investment, protecting intellectual property rights and facilitating technology cooperation. Moreover, special support should be given to the promotion and development of environmentally sustainable industry and attention needs to be directed to rural industrial development, to industrialization programmes for marginalized segments and regions, and to enhancing the role of women in industrial development.

88. The services sector is of increasing importance for the economies of developing countries. Developing countries should continue to pursue policies to create conditions for the development of their national services sector through the modernization of the necessary infrastructures. Measures should include enhancing the efficiency of domestic sectors by encouraging human resource development and by ensuring appropriate investment policies.

89. All countries should enhance the efficiency of domestic service sectors through greater internal and external competition and by ensuring the transparency, effectiveness and non-discriminatory nature of domestic regulations, in accordance to each country's commitments, and with the provisions of GATT, including article IV on the increasing participation of developing countries. The developing countries face a major challenge of strengthening their domestic services' capabilities to derive full benefits from the implementation of the General Agreement on Trade in Services. In this context, as reaffirmed in the ninth session of UNCTAD, appropriate technical assistance should be extended to the developing countries to develop and strengthen their service sectors to help ensure that they reap the maximum benefits from liberalization of trade in services.

90. The domestic sectoral policies elaborated by developing countries should be supported by a favourable international action. Trade liberalization should be pursued on a global basis. It should include the liberalization of market access in sectors and modes of supply of exports of interest to developing countries and should cover access to technology on a commercial basis, to distribution channels and to information networks. With the growing internationalization of the services sector, further action should be taken to facilitate the participation of developing countries in international service transactions.

B. Social development

91. Equitable social development is a necessary foundation for development and an important factor for the eradication of poverty. The commitments agreed at the World Summit for Social Development should be fully implemented.

92. The ultimate goal of development is to improve and enhance human well-being and the quality of life of all people. Social development is best pursued if Governments actively promote empowerment and participation in a democratic and pluralistic system respectful of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Efforts to sustain broad-based economic growth reinforce the promotion of social development. Processes to promote increased and equal economic opportunities, to avoid exclusion and overcome socially divisive disparities while respecting diversity are also part of an enabling environment for social development.

93. It is the primary responsibility of States to attain social development. But the international community, the United Nations system, the multilateral financial institutions, all regional organizations and local authorities, and all actors of civil society also need to contribute their own share of efforts

and resources to promote social development and to reduce inequalities among people and narrow the gap between developed and developing countries. As part of these shared responsibilities, interested developed and developing country partners could agree on mutual commitments to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of ODA and 20 per cent of their national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes.

1. Eradication of poverty and hunger

94. Poverty continues to affect far too many people in the world. Hunger and malnutrition, ill-health, lack of access to safe drinking water, low access to education and other public services and resources, exclusion, lack of participation and violence are some of the many aspects that characterize poverty. Widespread poverty affects the future of societies, as children growing up in poverty are often permanently disadvantaged. The burden of poverty is disproportionately borne by women. Though poverty occurs in all countries, its extent and manifestation are particularly severe in developing countries.

95. The goal of eradicating poverty in the world is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative. It can only be achieved through a multidimensional and integrated approach, that combines programmes targeted at people living in poverty with policies and strategies that meet the basic needs of all, strengthen their productive capacities, empower them to participate in decision-making on policies that affect them, ensure access of all to productive resources, opportunities, public services, and enhance social protection and reduce vulnerability. Sustained and broad-based economic growth, social development and environmental protection are crucial for raising living standards and for eliminating poverty in a sustained manner.

96. At international conferences organized by the United Nations in the recent years, Governments committed themselves to meet the basic needs of all. High priority should be placed on achieving and monitoring the goals and targets set in the areas of education, health, food security, shelter and access to safe drinking water and sanitation, in partnership with major development actors.

97. At the Social Summit, it was decided to formulate or strengthen, preferably by 1996, national policies and strategies geared to substantially reducing overall poverty in the shortest possible time, to reducing inequalities, and eradicating absolute poverty by a target date to be specified by each country. National budgets and policies should be designed with the strategic objective of meeting basic needs, eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities.

98. The eradication of poverty requires determined national actions. At the same time, the international community, bilaterally and through the multilateral financial institutions and other international organizations, should support the efforts of developing countries in the eradication of poverty and in ensuring basic social protection.

99. Commitments and targets agreed upon since 1990 to achieve the overall goal of poverty eradication should be fully implemented by Governments, in partnership with all development actors, the United Nations system, including financial institutions, NGOs and the international community as a whole. The United Nations system should make every effort to enhance the coordination of actions relative to poverty eradication, and to support developing countries and other countries in that endeavour.

100. Hunger and malnutrition continue to be the fate of hundreds of millions of people, most of whom live in Africa and the least developed countries. Eliminating hunger and malnutrition and achieving food security are major objectives of this agenda. Therefore, the institutional structures of the United Nations system must be made more effective in this respect.

101. The key to increasing food production lies in sustainable development of the agricultural sector and in improving market opportunities. Solving the problems in developing countries calls for improving agricultural productivity, but also for financial incentives to encourage investment in agriculture. It is also important to promote secure land tenure and access to resources and technology for farmers, in particular women, whose role is crucial in food supply and food security. The macroeconomic and trade policy issues and the social factors that constrain and limit the achievement of food security in least developed countries should also be addressed.

102. The international community should support the efforts of Africa and the least developed countries to increase food security. It should strive to ensure coordinated and rapid delivery of food assistance in situations of transitory food insecurity, in full awareness of longer term national and local development objectives and of the need to improve access to food of the most vulnerable groups of the population.

2. Employment

103. Creating adequately and appropriately remunerated employment for all and reducing unemployment and underemployment are essential for combating poverty and for promoting social integration.

104. Pursuing the goal of full employment should be a basic priority of economic and social policies, so as to enable all men and women to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work. At the WSSD, Governments agreed on those common goals, and on a set of objectives, policies and strategies to achieve them.

105. Economic growth as well as the expansion of productive employment should go hand in hand. The expansion of adequately and appropriately remunerated employment and the reduction of unemployment should be placed at the centre of economic and social policies with the participation of employers, workers and their respective organizations. The basic rights and interests of workers and the quality of jobs should be ensured and the relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) should be fully respected. Also essential is to ensure equal employment opportunities for women and men. Special efforts should be made against long-term and structural unemployment and underemployment, particularly among youth and women. In employment creation, employment development strategies should take into account the role of self-employment, entrepreneurship, small and medium size enterprises, and of the informal sector.

106. The United Nations should elaborate ways and means to implement, follow up and assess the outcome of the Social Summit in relation to the goal of full employment through expansion of productive employment and the reduction of unemployment. The General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council with the support of the Commission for Social Development and other relevant bodies as well as the World Bank and the IMF, should be involved in the implementation, follow-up, and assessment of international commitments on

employment. The ILO, because of its mandate, has a special role to play in this regard.

3. Social integration

107. The aim of social integration is to create "a society for all", where every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play. Since the founding of the United Nations, the quest for humane, stable, safe, tolerant and just societies has shown a mixed record. While progress has been achieved in many areas, there have also been negative developments, such as social polarization and fragmentation, widening disparities and inequalities of income and wealth within and among nations, and marginalization of people, families and social groups. Even entire countries have been negatively affected due to rapid social change, economic transformation, migration and major dislocations, particularly in areas of armed conflicts and violence in its various manifestations.

108. These are compelling reasons for actions by Governments, individually and, as appropriate, jointly, to foster social cohesion, while recognizing and protecting diversity. An inclusive society must be based on respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, on non-discrimination, tolerance, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security, respect for diversity, and on participation of all people, including the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and persons. The problems of crime, violence and abuse of and trafficking in drugs should also be addressed. International cooperation in the area of drugs should be reinforced in accordance with the Global Programme of Action adopted in the context of the international decade to fight drug abuse. In this context, the convening of a special session of the General Assembly in order to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, and to propose new strategies, methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of illicit drugs is of the highest importance.

4. Human resources development

109. At the World Conference on Education for All and the World Summit for Social Development, Governments committed themselves to ensuring universal access to quality education, attaining the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, and to ensuring access of all to primary health care. This should include efforts to rectify inequalities relating to social conditions, race, national origin, age, disability, and between urban and rural areas. Appropriate steps should be taken to close the gender gap at all levels of education and to ensure the full access of women to health care throughout the life cycle.

110. Quality education is critical for enabling people to develop their full capacities in health and dignity, and to participate actively in the social, economic and political process of development. It is also crucial for achieving the objectives of economic development. Education and vocational training are the key to higher productivity, and allow faster and easier adaptation to technological and economic change. They are vital for job creation and combating unemployment, and for sustained growth.

111. Resolute and vigorous national actions are crucial for developing human resources. Governments have committed themselves to formulating or strengthening strategies for the eradication of illiteracy and universalization of basic education. The link between education and training and labour market policies should be strengthened, so as to facilitate the adaptation of workers and employers to changing economic conditions, technologies and labour markets. Not only should the importance of higher education and scientific research be emphasized, but also of broadening the means and scope of basic education, of enhancing the learning environment and of promoting life-long learning.

112. From the perspective of the economy at large, it is of great importance that the requisite policies be applied to ensure human resources development, including a satisfactory level of education and training of the workforce and increasing their receptivity to technological innovations, in particular in the field of information technology.

113. Efforts to achieve the goals of national "Health-for-All" strategies, in line with the Alma Ata Conference Declaration on Primary Health Care, should be expedited. The need for an integrated and intersectoral approach to health strategies has been recognized, as well as the importance of strengthening national and international efforts to prevent and combat epidemics and other diseases that are endemic in many developing countries, and in particular to address malaria and the spread of HIV/AIDS more effectively.

114. At previous international conferences, Governments agreed upon a set of goals and objectives for national and international efforts in the area of education and literacy, and health, in particular for maternal and child health and the control of major communicable diseases. We are committed to achieving those goals within the time-frame we agreed to.

115. Enhanced international cooperation is also called for to advance human resource development. Concerted efforts should be made to support the efforts of developing countries, especially the least developed countries, and other countries in need, to develop their human resources. Developed countries have an important role to play. Human resources development and institution-building can also be promoted through cooperation among developing countries. International organizations, including the international financial institutions, must give high priority to supporting the objectives of human resources development and to integrating them into their policies, programmes and operations. Support might include, inter alia, exchange of information, training and skill development programmes, as well as the provision of other forms of assistance.

5. Human settlements

116. More people than ever are living in absolute poverty and without adequate shelter. Inadequate shelter and homelessness are growing plights in many countries, threatening standards of health, security and even life itself. Urban settlements have the ability to support large numbers of people while limiting their impact on the natural environment. Yet many cities are witnessing harmful patterns of growth, of production and consumption, of land use, of mobility and of degradation of their physical infrastructure.

117. At the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the international community adopted the goals and principles of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world. It

reaffirmed its commitment to the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing, as provided for in international instruments. The international community also subscribed to the principles and goals of equitable human settlements, in which all people have equal access to housing, infrastructure, health services, adequate food and water, education and open spaces. It affirmed that eradication of poverty is essential for sustainable human settlements.

118. Sustainable development is essential to human settlements development and gives full consideration to the needs and necessities of achieving economic growth, social development and environmental protection. Special consideration should be given to the specific situation and needs of developing countries, and, as appropriate, of countries with economies in transition. Human settlements shall be planned, developed and improved in a manner that takes full account of sustainable development principles and all their components, as set out in Agenda 21 and related outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

119. Formulation and implementation of strategies for human settlements development are primarily the responsibility of each country at national and local levels within the legal framework of each country. National plans of action and/or other relevant national programmes and actions to achieve the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development will need to be developed or strengthened, where appropriate, and their implementation will need to be monitored and evaluated by governments in close cooperation with their partners in development at the national level. There is also a need for an enabling international environment and for integrated approaches at the national and international levels to support these efforts.

120. New and additional financial resources from various sources are necessary to achieve the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world. The existing resources available to developing countries - public, private, multilateral, bilateral, domestic, and external - need to be enhanced through appropriate and flexible mechanisms and economic instruments to support adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development. These should be accompanied by concrete measures for international technical cooperation and information exchange.

121. The United Nations system, in cooperation with all States and with relevant international and non-governmental organizations also has a key role to play in promoting international cooperation on the provision of adequate shelter and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world as well as in rural areas.

C. Empowerment of women

122. While the status of women has advanced in some important respects in the past decade, progress has been uneven, inequalities between men and women have persisted and major obstacles remain to women's empowerment, with serious consequences for the well-being of all people.

123. The Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United

Nations system and other organizations concerned as well as non-governmental organizations.

124. Empowering women is essential for achieving the goals of sustainable development centred on human beings. It requires appropriate public policies to ensure that women enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms and participate fully and equally in all spheres of public life, including in decision-making. Public policies to promote women's economic potential and independence and their full and equal participation in development are also essential for women's empowerment. Before decisions are taken in the areas of social and economic development and of the environment, an analysis should be made of their impact on women and men respectively.

125. Measures should be taken to ensure the full enjoyment by women and the girl child of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Actions to be taken by States in this regard include fulfilling their commitments regarding the ratification of, accession to and the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women so that universal ratification of the Convention can be achieved by the year 2000, and avoiding as far as possible resorting to reservations. Measures should also be taken to ensure women's full and equal access to economic resources and social services through full respect for their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

126. Measures are needed to ensure women's equal access to education and to training and retraining. The targets set by the Fourth World Conference on Women for achieving gender equality in primary and secondary education should be implemented. Measures should be taken to ensure women's equal rights with men, equal access to economic resources and social services, including, inter alia, land, credit, science and technology, vocational training, information, communication, markets, education, and the right to inheritance. Eliminating occupational segregation and wage inequality, creating a flexible work environment that facilitates the restructuring of work patterns and the sharing of family responsibilities, are also major goals. Methods should be developed for assessing the value of unremunerated work outside national accounts. Policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women living in poverty should be reviewed, adopted or maintained in line with the recommendations of the Beijing Platform for Action.

127. Measures are also needed to achieve women's full participation in decision-making processes in all walks of life and at all levels. The success of policies and measures aimed at supporting or strengthening the promotion of gender equality and the improvement of the status of women should be based on the integration of the gender perspective in general policies relating to all spheres of society as well as the implementation of positive measures with adequate institutional and financial support at all levels. Enhanced participation by women will also contribute to ensuring that all policies and programmes are designed, implemented and monitored in full awareness of their possible or actual gender-specific effects.

128. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action should be urgently implemented in its entirety. Adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources to developing countries from all available funding mechanisms to strengthen the advancement of women, are required. The implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women - aimed at achieving equality by the year 2000 - should be accelerated. Also called for is implementation of the relevant sections of Agenda 21 and of the Programmes of Action adopted by the

International Conference on Population and Development and by the World Summit for Social Development, as well as of the Geneva Declaration on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights.

D. Rights of the child

129. Children are the most important resource for the future. Greater investment in children by parents and societies is essential to the achievement of sustained economic growth, social development and environmental protection. Therefore, the promotion, to the fullest extent, of the health, well-being and potential of all children, adolescents and youth is a crucial objective. The international community expressed its commitment to that objective when it adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child and at the World Summit for Children. We call for full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and encourage States to remove all reservations to that Convention.

130. Measures must be undertaken by States, with the support of the international community, to achieve, by the year 2000, the goals contained in the plan of action adopted at the World Summit for Children and to reach the goals set by subsequent international forums for the year 2000 and beyond. The rights of children must be ensured, with special attention paid to the particular situation of girls. Their rights to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and their rights to education must be ensured, recognizing the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for children to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacity of the child, appropriate direction. The efforts of developing countries to achieve those major goals must be supported.

131. Exploitation, maltreatment, child prostitution and child abuse should be combated, and the root causes of these phenomena have to be addressed. Actions are also needed for improving the situation and protecting the rights of children in especially difficult circumstances and ensuring that the vital importance of family reunification is recognized, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and taking into account the relevant provisions of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

132. Another key issue with regard to the rights of the child is child labour, which is pervasive in many parts of the world. Overall socio-economic conditions, income uncertainty, women's health and education, schooling opportunities and the size of households all have an impact on child labour. Abolishing child labour requires setting specific target dates for eliminating all forms of child labour that are contrary to accepted international standards, in particular article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, for ensuring the full enforcement of relevant existing laws, and, where appropriate, for enacting the legislation necessary to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and relevant ILO standards. In this context, priority should be given to the elimination of all extreme forms of child labour such as forced labour, bonded labour and other forms of slavery. National efforts in dealing with the problem of working children can be complemented by international support measures which may include provision of education facilities as well as compensatory support measures for their families.

E. Population and development and international migration

133. The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development emphasized the importance of translating the Conference's recommendations into actions at all levels. This will involve decisive actions by Governments and increased support from the international community. The effective implementation of the Programme of Action will require an increased commitment of financial resources, both domestically and externally. The developed countries have committed themselves to complementing the national efforts of developing countries on population and development. The Programme of Action includes commitments to increase substantially the availability of international financial assistance to the developing countries in the field of population and development in order to ensure that population and development objectives and goals are met.

134. In this connection, Governments should commit themselves at the highest political level to achieving the goals and objectives contained in the Programme of Action and should take a lead role in coordinating the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of follow-up actions. The Programme of Action endorsed the crucial role of NGOs, reflected in an effective partnership between government and NGOs in all aspects of population and development-related programmes and policies. The capacity of NGOs for entering into such a partnership needs to be enhanced.

135. The Programme of Action and Agenda 21, among others, affirm that demographic trends cannot be considered in isolation from development. Therefore, population programmes are not simply about numbers and demographic targets, but rather about the human beings who are at the centre of population and development activities. Consequently, the Programme of Action is grounded in a development and human rights framework and underscores the need to reconcile the aspirations and requirements of individual women and men with long-term development objectives.

136. Countries have learned much about the relationships between population growth and sustainable development. There is general agreement that persistent widespread poverty as well as serious social and gender inequalities have significant influences on, and are in turn influenced by, such demographic parameters as population growth, structure and distribution. Gender equality, including full and equal access to education by women, and universal access to basic health care services, including those relating to reproductive health services, are essential to achieving population and development objectives. Furthermore, integrating population into economic and development strategies will both speed up the pace of sustainable development and poverty eradication and contribute to the achievement of population objectives and an improved quality of life of the population.

137. Successful reproductive health care, including family planning programmes, must be based on the principle of free and responsible choice of family size and child-spacing, which includes the ability of men and women to make informed decisions on the number and spacing of their children. Such choice calls for access to the widest possible range of health care programmes and services and for greater support for reproductive health services and appropriate educational programmes.

138. Concomitant support is needed for stronger, better coordinated global actions against major diseases that take a heavy toll of human lives, such as malaria, tuberculosis, cholera, typhoid and HIV/AIDS. In this context, the

Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS should be brought into full operation as quickly as possible and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on malaria should be implemented.

139. The international community also has a vital role to play in attaining the objectives of the Programme of Action regarding international migration and development, which reflects the special importance attached to the impact of international migration on both countries of origin and receiving States. The flow of people between countries, and indeed within countries, affects and is affected by the development process. As underlined in the Programme of Action, international economic imbalances, poverty and environmental degradation, combined with the absence of peace and security, violations of human rights and the varying degrees of development of judicial and democratic institutions are all factors in the movement of people.

140. There is a need to formulate or strengthen measures at the national level to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families, to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in sectors of many societies, and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies. Ultimately, the long-term manageability of international migration hinges on making the option to remain in one's country a viable one for all people. The possibility of convening an international conference on migration and development could be considered.

F. Environment and development

1. Full implementation of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of UNCED

141. The consensus on and basis for actions at global, regional, subregional, national and local levels to ensure sustainable development has been established by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of all Types of Forests, as well as in all international conventions on the environment and development. Priority must be given to the prompt and full implementation of these commitments and recommendations.

142. At UNCED an integrated approach towards development and environment was adopted, whereby the protection of the environment would constitute an integral part of the development process and could not be viewed in isolation from it. Depletion and degradation of nature and its resources endanger the prospects for development, for our generation and even more so for the future generations. The cost of reversal will be far higher than the cost of prevention. Therefore, sustainable development strategies and programmes which aim at integrating environmental protection requirements into economic, social and development policies should be formulated and implemented at all levels. All States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and development policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, in keeping with the principles contained in the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and relevant international environment conventions.

143. Eradication of poverty should have the highest priority on the international agenda. One of the adverse effects of poverty, which affects mostly developing countries, is related to environmental and natural resource degradation. The essential task of eradicating poverty is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world. Strategies aimed at poverty eradication are also important in avoiding degradation of resources.

144. While poverty results in certain kinds of environmental stress, the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in industrial countries, which is a matter of grave concern, aggravating poverty and imbalances. Promoting changes in such consumption and production patterns should also be of the highest priority. All countries should strive to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. Developed countries bear a special responsibility and should take the lead in this area. Action is required to promote changes in unsustainable production and consumption patterns through behavioural changes and through the promotion of internalizing environmental costs and the potential use of economic instruments that can both generate revenue for financing sustainable development and send signals to the market to help change unsustainable consumption and production patterns.

145. In general, the financing for the implementation of Agenda 21 will come from a country's own public and private sectors. For developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, ODA is a main source of external funding, and substantial new and additional funding for sustainable development and implementation of Agenda 21 is required. So far, the financial resources provided to developing countries have fallen short of expectations for the means of implementation set forth in Agenda 21. All countries should honour their commitments related to financial resources and mechanisms for implementation, as laid down in chapter 33 of Agenda 21. Both domestic budgets and development assistance, including assistance by the United Nations system, should be consistent with and supportive of the objectives of sustainable development. The potential of innovative, additional financial resources should be urgently explored.

146. The Global Environment Facility (GEF), whose additional grant and concessional funding is designed to achieve global environmental benefits, should meet the agreed incremental costs of relevant activities under Agenda 21, in accordance with the GEF instrument, in particular for developing countries. The restructured GEF with initial commitments of US$ 2 billion for three years, constitutes a first step in providing resources to address global environment concerns. The prime task now is for the GEF to pursue its operational phase in line with its agreed operational strategy, while ensuring that it continues to be consistent with the guidelines of relevant conventions. GEF procedures could be further improved to speed up project implementation without compromising the quality of appraisal and participation.

147. Another essential dimension of the UNCED commitments concerns concrete measures for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed. The Governments of developed countries have a major role to play, both as a conduit for such transfers and by providing market incentives for the private sector. Recognizing the importance of protecting intellectual

property rights and taking into account the special needs of developing countries are two essential considerations in the transfer of environmentally sound technology.

148. The UNCED process culminated in a new global partnership for sustainable development. Implementing the recommendations of Agenda 21 is essential for strengthening this partnership based on common but differentiated responsibilities. In this partnership, the special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries and those most environmentally vulnerable, must receive special priority.

149. The United Nations system has a key role in stimulating and supporting countries and major groups in the implementation of Agenda 21, in helping to build further consensus and in preparing the ground for standard-setting on issues of sustainable development.

2. Implementation of international conventions on the environment

150. International legal instruments for the regulation of activities affecting the environment form an essential framework for practical efforts by the international community to reduce environmental degradation and promote sustainable development. In this context, it is important to promote further the implementation and development of international conventions in the field of environment and development, taking into account the principles contained in the Rio Declaration.

151. The full implementation of these instruments will be an important contribution to ensuring the sustainable use of land, marine and air resources, including through reduction and recycling of waste and through nature management. Governments should become parties to and comply with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, signed at UNCED. They should also become parties to and implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal; and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Countries are encouraged to sign and become parties to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and to implement this agreement. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States is also called for.

152. Developed countries parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa should support, through fulfilling their commitments to mobilize substantial financial resources and to facilitate the transfer of technology, knowledge and know-how, the efforts of affected developing countries parties, in particular African countries, to develop and implement their own long-term plans and strategies to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

153. Developed country parties should fulfil their financial commitments and enhance cooperative efforts to support developing country parties in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The effective implementation of the two

Conventions and their strengthening, in accordance with decisions adopted by the respective conferences of the parties, should be ensured by the parties with the support of the international community. Developed country parties should continue their efforts to support country parties undergoing the process of transition to a market economy in the implementation of these conventions.

154. Action towards sustainable development is an evolving process: additional commitments, actions and instruments may be required in the light of new global, regional and subregional or national developments and needs. But this should in no way delay the implementation of what has been agreed.

G. Humanitarian issues and development

155. Humanitarian assistance is essential for the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies, including major technological and man-made disasters. Emergency measures should be seen as a first step towards long-term development.

156. The General Assembly has recognized that humanitarian assistance must be provided with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality. It has also recognized that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States must be fully respected in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Humanitarian assistance should be provided with the consent of the affected country and in principle on the basis of an appeal by the affected country.

157. At the same time, each State has the responsibility first and foremost to take care of the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies occurring on its territory and to provide for the security of humanitarian personnel. Hence, the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination, and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory. To this end, the United Nations is continuing to identify ways for strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system.

158. Many emergencies reflect the underlying crisis of development facing many developing countries which needs to be addressed by Governments and the international community if the emergency is not to recur. Therefore, in order to prevent the occurrence or recurrence of emergency situations, support is required for medium and long-term social and economic development. The implementation of commitments to sustainable development, including those related to economic growth, will contribute to the ability of developing countries to undertake disaster prevention and preparedness, including, inter alia, support for food security, strengthening health and education systems in affected countries, as well as equal access to education, the building up of national institutions, and for the rule of law as well as for strengthening the capacity of recipient institutions to manage emergency situations.

1. Continuum from relief to rehabilitation and development

159. Where emergency situations arise, rapid provision of humanitarian assistance by the international community remains, of course, imperative. However, this form of assistance must be planned with a view to an equally rapid transition to rehabilitation and reconstruction and be part of the continuum concept which aims at resuming development at the earliest opportunity. At the

same time, it should be recognized that the continuum concept may require different approaches in different situations.

160. Prevention, preparedness, emergency response, economic recovery and rehabilitation are all part of a comprehensive response to reduce developing country vulnerability to emergencies. Thus far, however, the international community has mostly only been able to react to emergencies through the provision of humanitarian assistance which can only alleviate human suffering in a short-term perspective. Expenditure on relief activities should not have a negative impact on development programmes.

161. In virtually all post-emergency situations, resettlement of refugees, displaced persons and other disaster victims as well as the restoration of physical infrastructure are some of the major conditions for recovery. In cases of post-conflict peace-building situations, programmes such as demining, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants as well as confidence-building and reconciliation measures are essential for moving forward in the continuum towards development. Equally important are restoring public institutions, police and judicial systems, and resuming economic and social development in preventing possible resurgence of conflict situations.

162. Although certain intermediate phases can be established, the distinction between different stages of the emergency to development continuum is often vague. This requires a comprehensive and coordinated response not only to rehabilitation and reconstruction but also to development needs, by the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, the international community and Governments. The mandates of humanitarian agencies and development organizations must be delineated clearly in order to counter the tendency of these agencies and organizations to extend mandates, either from relief to development or vice versa, without having necessarily the institutional capacity to effectively take on such new roles.

163. In order for the international community to respond rapidly and effectively to humanitarian emergencies at the various stages of the continuum, the establishment of an international network of voluntary humanitarian relief teams that can be deployed rapidly to cope with humanitarian emergencies, such as the white helmet initiative acting within the framework of the United Nations volunteers, could be considered.

2. Early warning, prevention, preparedness and reduction of natural disasters

164. In recent years, with, in many areas, ever larger populations at risk, disasters have had increasingly major impacts in terms of human and economic losses, impoverishment and long-term displacement of populations. The commitments of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World, adopted by the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, which has defined concrete actions for disaster reduction, should be implemented.

165. Disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness are of primary importance for reducing the need for disaster relief. They should become an integral part of national strategies and programmes for sustainable development. There should be greater efforts to enhance national capabilities for early warning and disaster mitigation, which should be supported with adequate financial resources and transfer of technologies to developing countries and, as appropriate, countries with economies in transition.

166. Enhanced subregional, regional and international cooperation are essential for disaster preparedness. Prevention, mitigation and preparedness for natural disasters, and actions to implement the Yokohama Strategy, could be integrated into the country strategy note, where appropriate. A coordinated and timely preventive response of Governments, non-governmental and other organizations, and agencies and communities requires strengthening of the early-warning potential of the United Nations system.

3. Response to other humanitarian emergencies

167. Humanitarian emergency situations have become more frequent, more widespread, more complex and long lasting, combining interstate and internal conflicts, large-scale displacements of people, mass famine, disruption of economic, political and social institutions, and, in some cases natural disasters. A result has been that a growing percentage of development assistance is being devoted to such complex emergencies. There is a need to avoid the situation in which such a trend has a negative impact on long-term development programmes.

168. The response of the international community to complex humanitarian emergencies has become better coordinated, more effective and more efficient. The United Nations plays a central role in the international response to this daunting challenge, working closely with other international agencies. The creation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs illustrates the determination of the United Nations to respond more effectively to this task. The coordinating role of this Department among the various relevant agencies should be further strengthened, including by developing formal memoranda of understanding with them.

169. Further progress requires the provision of adequate contingency funds and the establishment of planning and logistical mechanisms to allow a faster and more effective response to complex emergencies.

170. Ways also have to be found to address basic needs during complex emergencies. Issues such as humanitarian needs of displaced persons, which are not under the direct mandate of humanitarian agencies, should also be addressed. Coordination and clear mandates and responsibilities, particularly in the field, are also essential in cases where there is a humanitarian component to a peacekeeping operation. While peacekeeping, civilian, humanitarian, economic, social, and political activities are all part of the integrated process of peace-building, special attention should be given to the observance of the norms and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law.

171. The effective delivery assistance of relevant non-governmental organizations and volunteers in situations of complex emergencies should be further recognized as an important complementary part of the coordinated international, regional and subregional response and incorporated into the programming of actions.

4. Refugees and displaced persons

172. The number of refugees and displaced persons has been rapidly increasing due to a number of complex factors which include, inter alia, armed conflicts, human rights violations, political instability, absolute poverty, social disintegration, lack of resources, and environmental degradation. Most of the

refugees are located in and/or move into developing countries, often imposing an enormous burden on those States which already face difficult economic and social conditions. International support for activities of recipient countries for refugees and displaced persons is hence a necessity.

173. Some countries with economies in transition also face burdens related to refugees and displaced persons. There is, therefore, a need for the international community to support them in order to address these problems.

174. The root causes of movements of refugees and displaced persons should be tackled in a coordinated and integrated manner. A durable solution to the plight of the present large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers should be found. Their needs as regards protection in accordance with internationally recognized standards and with national law, as well as assistance, must receive the necessary support. Governments should strive to meet their basic needs, build their self-sufficiency. The conditions for voluntary repatriation of refugees and returnees in safety and dignity, and for ensuring adequate reception arrangements and smooth reintegration, should be created.

H. Participatory approach to development

175. There has been a multiplication of non-state actors in development - those of the civil society - who are playing an increasingly important role in development. The State has overall responsibility for policy formulation in the economic, social and environmental spheres, including the correction of market failures, the provision of public goods, the creation of a favourable enabling environment for the private sector as well as a favourable legal and regulatory framework. It should also encourage effective participation by the private sector and major groups in activities which complement and reinforce national objectives.

176. Participation is an essential component of successful and lasting development. It contributes to equity by involving people living in poverty and other groups in planning and implementation. Participatory decision-making, together with the rule of law, democracy, and transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society is an important requirement for the effectiveness of development policies.

177. Full participation in society should be achieved through the promotion and protection by Governments of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, bearing in mind the interdependent and mutually reinforcing relationship between democracy and respect for human rights. Governments should make public institutions more responsive to people's needs. Therefore, full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the conclusions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action should be promoted.

178. There is a large potential benefit to be derived from increased participation. In order for it to be realized, Governments should establish institutional and legal frameworks and decentralized processes, that allow their people greater involvement in the decisions that affect their lives. This requires that Governments give adequate support to the administration of justice as well as to public administration which should be responsive to the requirements of their people.

179. Governments are encouraged, where appropriate, to decentralize their public institutions and services to a level that, compatible with their overall responsibilities, priorities and objectives, responds properly to local needs and facilitates local participation. To ensure effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their association/networks, Governments, at the appropriate levels, should review and revise, as necessary, legislation to increase local autonomy and participation in decision-making, implementation, and resource mobilization and use, especially with respect to human, technical and financial resources and local enterprise development, within the overall framework of a national economic, social and environmental strategy. Governments, when they consider it appropriate, could work on decentralization programmes with the support of donors and international institutions.

180. The key to participatory development means fulfilling the potential of people by enlarging their capabilities, and this necessarily implies empowerment of people, enabling them to participate actively in their own development. In order to fulfil their potential, people, especially those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged, must participate actively in establishing and maintaining independent organizations representing their interests, within each country's constitutional framework. Political empowerment is an integral aspect of participatory development.

181. A vigorous civil society is indispensable for popular participation at all levels and an essential component of any successful development strategy. Community organizations, business and workers' organizations, NGOs and self-help groups must be actively involved. Governments should view them as important actors and partners in development. Greater accountability and transparency in such organizations' activities would be helpful in this regard. In countries where the participation of civil society is weak, it should be a major purpose of public policy to strengthen it.

182. Broadening and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the international economic decision-making process is also necessary.

I. Actions related to countries in special situations

183. International cooperation for development should take account of countries' development experiences and circumstances in formulating and implementing comprehensive development approaches.

184. Action on many fronts is needed. A combination of grant aid, concessional loans and technical assistance which can contribute to the financing of the necessary economic and social infrastructure, together with strategies designed *inter alia* to increase exports earnings, attract foreign direct investment and reduce external debt, can provide sufficient conditions for development.

185. The critical situation of Africa and the least developed countries requires that priority should be given to those countries in international cooperation for development and in the allocation of ODA. These countries should implement at the national level structural adjustment policies which take into account social development goals as well as effective development strategies that create a more favourable climate for trade and investment, give priority to human resources development and further promote the development of democratic institutions. These national efforts should be supported by the international community.

1. Africa

186. The critical socio-economic condition in Africa concerns the international community as a whole and requires global partnership and solidarity to address and solve. Although Africa is faced with enormous problems, it also has great potential, both in human and natural resources, for economic growth and development. The obstacles to the socio-economic development of Africa are well known. Tackling these problems and paving the way to accelerated and self-sustaining growth and sustainable development through decisive implementation of commitments and actions have, however, been lacking.

187. The external debt problems of African countries require further attention. The measures taken by the Paris Club, including the Naples terms, should be further implemented in a full, constructive and expeditious manner. Effective, equitable, development oriented and durable solutions have to be found in the problems of external debt and the burden of debt, which continue to impede the socio-economic development of African countries despite measures taken on both a bilateral and multilateral basis to reduce or reschedule their debt.

188. The international community should reaffirm its commitment to give full support to the development efforts of Africa. This requires, inter alia, measures to contribute to durable solutions to the external debt and debt-service problems, to increase foreign direct investment, to enhance national capacity-building, to deal with the shortage of domestic resources for development and to facilitate the integration of the African countries into subregional and regional trade as well as into world trade.

189. The international community should support African countries so that they benefit fully from the results of the Uruguay Round and to mitigate any adverse effect of the Final Act. It is essential to implement the measures decided upon in the Final Act and the complementary provisions specified in the Marrakesh Agreement, in favour of least developed countries and concerning the possible negative effects of the reform programme on these countries and on the net food-importing developing countries. In this regard, there is urgent need for financial and technical assistance to African countries to enable them to evaluate the impact of the Final Act and to identify and implement adaptive measures to enhance their competitiveness and trade performance in order to benefit from the Uruguay Round. In addition, it is essential to support the efforts of African countries to diversify their economies. New export capacities and opportunities have to be created and diversification across markets and products should be encouraged. The call for financing the preparatory phase of commodity diversification projects and programmes should be pursued. State participants in the African Development Fund and multilateral institutions are urged to pay special attention to the diversification of African commodities and to contribute to the preparatory phase of African diversification projects. In order to support effectively efforts to diversify commodity exports and boost earnings, the international community, particularly the major trading partners, should continue to commit themselves to granting enhanced market access to Africa's exports through substantial reduction in or removal of trade barriers and through preferential arrangements, in accordance with the Uruguay Round Agreements.

190. There is an urgent need for concerted and better coordinated international action on the myriad of adverse socio-economic factors which compound poverty in Africa and hamper its prospects for growth and development. This includes addressing effectively and comprehensively the issues of conflict resolution, including post-conflict peace-building and the continuum from relief to

rehabilitation and development; stronger and better coordinated global actions against major diseases that take a heavy toll of human lives; and alleviating the effects of natural disasters through programmes on early warning, preparedness, prevention and mitigation. The international community should also assist African countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and meet basic human needs.

191. The United Nations system also has a major role to play in coordinating and implementing activities which address the critical situation in Africa, including through the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and the follow-up of the outcome of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development and other related initiatives.

2. Least developed countries

192. Despite the adoption of the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, there has been a decline in real terms of total ODA for LDCs and there has been continued marginalization of these countries, and their number has increased from 41 to 48 without a proportionate increase in support measures despite national and international efforts. Reversing the further marginalization of the least developed countries and achieving their integration in the world economy are essential for their growth and development and pose a major challenge to the international community.

193. In order to succeed, the full support of the international community is required. Appropriate economic and social policies are also required and technical capacity and physical and institutional infrastructure need to be built up. Special support should therefore be given to the least developed countries in their development efforts, in order to facilitate their integration into the world economy, to enable them to participate in and to allow them to fully benefit from the process of globalization and liberalization of trade and the increase in international private resource flows.

194. In view of their limited domestic resources, the least developed countries will continue to need enhanced external financial assistance and other support. Achieving the accepted United Nations target for official development assistance to the least developed countries of 0.15 per cent of donor countries' GNP is particularly urgent. Donor countries which have not met this target should make their best efforts to reach it as soon as possible, and donor countries which have met the 0.15 per cent target should undertake to reach 0.20 per cent by the year 2000. Further improvements should be made in aid coordination and effectiveness.

195. Many LDCs face serious debt problems and more than half are considered debt distressed. Most of their debt is owed to official creditors, both bilateral and multilateral. The serious debt problems of LDCs necessitate continued efforts in the framework of the international debt strategy. This strategy includes concrete measures to alleviate the debt burden and economic policy measures, which will be critical to the revitalization of growth and development. Those LDCs should continue to benefit from substantial debt relief schemes. Paris Club creditors are invited to continue to implement fully, constructively and expeditiously the very concessional treatment under the Naples terms, and the Bretton Woods institutions are encouraged to expedite the ongoing consideration of ways to address the issue of the multilateral debt, including those concerning the LDCs.

196. The international community should support LDCs so that they benefit fully from the results of the Uruguay Round and to mitigate any adverse effect of the Final Act. It is essential to implement the measures decided upon in the Final Act and the complementary provisions specified in the Marrakesh Agreement, in favour of the LDCs and concerning the possible negative effects of the reform programme on these countries and on the net food importing developing countries. Urgent steps are needed to provide enhanced market access to major markets for products originating from LDCs. There is also scope for further improvement of the GSP schemes and other supportive measures in favour of LDCs.

197. In 1990, through the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the international community agreed on measures to revitalize the development of the least developed countries. At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, and other relevant conferences, agreements and conventions, further commitments have been made to support the efforts of these countries. At the mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in the 1990s, concrete measures and recommendations were agreed on to implement the Programme of Action. They should be operationalized and implemented as appropriate. The international community must give high priority to the full and timely implementation of the Programme of Action and fulfil all its commitments in favour of the least developed countries.

3. Small island developing States

198. The international community, international organizations and the United Nations system should cooperate in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and of Agenda 21, and support their economic transformation. This requires adequate, predictable, new and additional financial resources, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including on concessional and preferential terms as mutually agreed, and promoting fair and non-discriminatory trading arrangements. Appropriate exchanges among small island developing States and between them and other States with similar development experiences are also to be encouraged. The GEF should constitute an important channel of assistance to small island developing States in responding to their special needs and vulnerabilities.

199. The sustainable development of small island developing States requires concrete action by the international community to address the constraints to their development outlined in the Programme of Action and in Agenda 21. It also requires a supportive international institutional framework, including a strong monitoring and review role by the Commission on Sustainable Development. Appropriate support should be given to the SIDS/NET and SIDS/TAP programmes, which are important instruments for technical cooperation and for promoting information exchange.

4. Landlocked developing countries

200. Specific action at national, bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels should be taken as a matter of urgency and priority, to address the special development problems and needs of landlocked developing countries. To that end, international support, through appropriate technical cooperation and financial assistance by developed countries and multilateral

financial and development institutions is needed to enhance the capacity of the landlocked developing countries to effectively participate in the rapidly globalizing world economy, including global trading, investment and technology transfer processes.

201. Particular emphasis should be given to the cooperative and collaborative efforts of the landlocked and transit developing countries in dealing with the transit problems, inter alia, through improving the transit transport infrastructure facilities and bilateral agreements to govern transit transport operations; development of joint ventures in the area of transit transport; and strengthening of institutions and human resources dealing with transit transport. Active and consistent efforts are called to implement the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between landlocked and transit developing countries and the donor community endorsed by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. Since most transit countries are themselves developing countries facing serious economic problems, their efforts at developing a viable transit infrastructure also need financial and technical support.

5. Countries with economies in transition

202. The international community should continue to give attention to the needs of countries with economies in transition, and support in particular their efforts to integrate into the world economy. A number of international meetings and conferences, including those held under United Nations auspices, have recognized the specific needs of these countries in various areas of development and the necessity to provide them with temporary assistance upon their request aimed at the solution to the most acute problems. Such recommendations should be fully implemented by the international community and the United Nations system. To this end, an appropriate strategy should be defined for strengthening solidarity with these countries, taking into account the need to preserve the United Nations system's high priorities in development, in particular international development cooperation.

J. Means of implementation

203. The effective implementation of this Agenda, as well as of the decisions and commitments reached at the recent series of United Nations global conferences, summits and other meetings, requires the urgent mobilization and more efficient use of resources for development. It is critical to generate the political will to mobilize and make available the necessary resources - public and private, financial and human, national and international - if all States, the United Nations system and the international community as a whole are to mount a full and effective response to this Agenda. In formulating this response, attention has to be given to both the quantitative and the qualitative aspects of development as well as to time-frames for implementation.

1. Mobilization of domestic resources for development

204. All countries should continue to implement policies and measures to mobilize domestic resources according to national strategies and priorities and to achieve an appropriate level of domestic savings. Measures should include the maintenance of sound fiscal and monetary policies, efficient and equitable taxation systems, low budget deficits and an efficient allocation of budgetary resources in which due priority is given to productive expenditure.

205. Political institutions and legal systems that ensure the equitable distribution of domestic resources enhance the effectiveness and flexibility of national policy frameworks. Public expenditures offer significant opportunities for promoting growth and the equitable redistribution of resources.

206. All countries should explore new ways of generating new public and private financial resources, inter alia, through the appropriate reduction of excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures and the arms trade and investments for arms production and acquisition, taking into consideration national security requirements, so as to allow possible allocation of additional funds for social and economic development.

2. External resources

207. The savings efforts of developing countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries, to generate sufficient domestic savings need to be supplemented by external resources so as to raise investment to the levels necessary for adequate sustained economic growth. New and innovative ideas for generating resources for development should be explored.

(a) External debt

208. The international community, including the international financial institutions, is invited to continue to explore ways of implementing additional and innovative measures to alleviate substantially the debt burdens of developing countries, in particular of the highly indebted low-income countries, in order to help them to achieve sustained economic growth without falling into a new debt crisis.

209. In this context, the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative (HIPC) endorsed by the Interim Committee of IMF and the Development Committee of the World Bank and IMF - which is designed to enable eligible heavily indebted poor countries to achieve a sustainable debt situation through coordinated action by all creditors on the basis of adjustment efforts by the debtor countries - is welcomed. It is recognized that the implementation of the Initiative requires additional financial resources from both bilateral and multilateral creditors without affecting the support required for development activities of developing countries. The importance of implementing the Initiative's eligibility criteria flexibly so as to ensure sufficient coverage of the heavily indebted countries is stressed.

210. All the members of the Paris Club are encouraged to implement fully the initiatives which aim at substantially reducing the bilateral component of the debt burden of the poorest and heavily indebted countries and at permitting countries sufficiently advanced in an adjustment strategy to exit from the rescheduling process. To achieve the first aim mentioned above, the Paris Club should continue to apply the Naples terms in a full, expeditious and constructive manner in order to contribute to a durable solution to the debt problems of these countries.

211. Private creditors and, in particular, commercial banks should be encouraged to continue their initiatives and efforts to address the commercial debt of developing countries.

212. The international community should implement fully the appropriate actions identified in the mid-term global review of the implementation of the Programme

of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s concerning the external debt problems of those countries.

213. Multilateral debt accounts for a high proportion of the external debt of a number of heavily indebted developing countries. The international financial institutions are invited to examine further proposals to tackle the problems of a number of developing countries with regard to multilateral debt, taking into account the specific situation of each country. Such proposals need to preserve the preferred creditor status of the multilateral financial institutions, in order to ensure that they can continue to provide concessional financing for development to developing countries.

(b) Official development assistance

214. It is important to reverse the overall decline in ODA flows and to achieve internationally agreed ODA targets as soon as possible. Such assistance should focus on developing countries, with particular priority to Africa and the least developed countries. Some donor countries have achieved or exceeded the accepted United Nations targets to allocate 0.7 per cent of GNP for overall ODA and 0.15 per cent of GNP for ODA for the least developed countries and are encouraged to continue to do so. Other developed countries reaffirm the commitments undertaken to fulfil as soon as possible these targets. Countries which are in a position to do so should strive to augment their assistance in the framework of development cooperation. Countries should also honour their commitments in Agenda 21 to provide resources to promote sustainable development.

(c) Role and resources of multilateral financial institutions, including regional development banks

215. The multilateral financial institutions should continue to play a major role in development and in promoting the stability of the international financial system. In their responses to the development needs, priorities and specific circumstances of developing countries, the World Bank and IMF should continue to adjust to the wide-ranging changes in global circumstances. Their programmes should respond to the economic and social conditions, concerns and needs of each country, and should also explicitly include social development goals, in particular eradicating poverty, promoting productive employment, enhancing social integration, and supporting people living in poverty and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of society. To this end, they are urged to increase cooperation with other development activities of the United Nations system. At the same time, both the World Bank and IMF need an enhanced capacity to fulfil their roles effectively. In particular, resources for the International Development Association (IDA) should be replenished adequately and in a timely manner.

216. Regional development banks should continue to play an important role in the financing of development. In this context, the adequate and timely replenishment of their concessional mechanisms is essential. Regional development banks should respond effectively to development priorities.

(d) United Nations financing for development

217. The fulfilment of the United Nations system's role in development and in promoting development cooperation requires resources to be provided on a sound, predictable, continuous and assured basis. The international community should support the development efforts of the United Nations system by providing a

substantial increase in resources for operational activities commensurate with the needs of the developing countries and the overall resources of the United Nations. This requires both political commitment by all States and an appropriate balance in terms of resources devoted to all United Nations activities and to development. New approaches to financing the international development cooperation activities undertaken by the United Nations, including innovative funding sources, should continue to be examined.

(e) Private investment flows

218. Special attention should be given by all countries to measures aimed at promoting international investment flows and enhancing their contribution to development. In order to encourage domestic investment and to attract FDI, it is essential to have in place a stable, supportive, effective and transparent legal framework. Intellectual property protection is an essential component of an environment conducive to the creation and international transfer of technology. Investment agreements which signal that investment is valued and that all investors will be treated fairly also promote investment. Governments in the developed countries should facilitate long-term investment flows to developing countries. All countries should take measures to ensure that these flows have a positive impact on development, equitable growth, productive capacity, infrastructure, transfer of technology, eradication of poverty, trade expansion, employment and social programmes.

219. The globalization and growth of financial markets has given rise to the need for improved measures to address the negative effects of the volatility of international capital flows. The prevention of financial crises will require enhanced early warning mechanisms, including improved and effective surveillance of national and international financial market developments. If prevention fails, responding to financial market distress will require enhancing the capacity of multilateral institutions to respond in a quick and coordinated fashion. Financial mechanisms need to be developed for this purpose as well as to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. In this context, the international community should explore ways to broaden appropriate enhanced cooperation and, where appropriate, coordination of macroeconomic policy among interested countries, monetary and financial authorities and institutions, so as to enhance preventive consultation arrangements between such institutions as a means of promoting a stable international financial environment conducive to economic growth, particularly in developing countries, taking into account the needs of developing countries as well as situations that may have a significant impact on the international financial system.

3. Qualitative aspects of development cooperation

220. The quantitative efforts set out above should be complemented with measures to improve the qualitative aspects of international development cooperation, particularly: a better focus on its distribution; greater national capacities to coordinate national and international resources; improved national ownership of externally financed programmes; international cooperation based on national priorities, involving other development partners, including civil society; and strengthened national capacities to plan for, manage, monitor and evaluate the impact of development cooperation.

221. To translate the Agenda for Development into practical action, it is essential that further steps are taken to enhance United Nations performance in development. Maintaining adequate levels for funding for United Nations

operational activities must be coupled with continued improvements in their performance, including monitoring and evaluation and the measurement of output rather than input.

4. Capacity-building

222. If development activities are to have a lasting impact, the future provision of technical cooperation must focus on strengthening national capacities rather than using international expertise, which is often expensive, and procuring equipment tied to aid. The United Nations system needs to scrutinize whether its activities contribute to the promotion of national ownership and capacity-building. Such promotion should be the central objective of its field level activities.

223. The international community, including the United Nations system, shall give preference, wherever possible, to the utilization of competent national experts or, where necessary, of competent experts from within the subregion or region or from other developing countries, in project and programme design, preparation and implementation and to the building of local expertise where it does not exist.

224. National execution should be the principal modality for the implementation of programmes by the United Nations system. The pace at which national execution is utilized by recipient countries must depend upon their needs and capacities. Effective national execution also requires both the United Nations system and other actors involved in the provision of technical assistance to give increased priority to assisting recipient countries in building and/or enhancing the necessary capacity to undertake services at the field level.

225. The need to promote capacity-building and national execution should be taken into account in the design stage of development programmes. Governments will need to take a lead role in identifying such needs at the planning stage and in ensuring that there is adequate national ownership of the programmes as well as in maximizing projects and programmes efficiency by keeping overhead costs to a minimum.

226. The United Nations system must also be prepared to address the capacity requirements of different national development partners, including, in addition to Government, members of civil society, such as the private sector, and NGOs.

227. When building national capacities a number of issues will need to be taken into consideration. These include the articulation of clear development goals, strategies and priorities that are nationally prescribed and supported, where necessary, by external partners; effective performance of functions through a well-trained human resource base; competent organizations and management to effectively utilize and retain skilled people; a policy and institutional environment that can facilitate the performance and accountability of the public sector and other national institutions; and sensitivity to the overall social, economic and cultural environment in which capacity development is to take place.

228. Technical and economic cooperation among developing countries is an instrument that can make important contributions to building national capacities through exchange of information, experiences and expertise.